

ADVISORY PARK BOARD MINUTES

March 24, 2011

Item 1: Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Robert Ranney. Committee members present were Marc Cerce, Beau Buffington, Mike McWilliams, and Robert Ranney. City Manager Rick Hess, Sonja Lellamand, and Robert Groves were also present.

Item 2: Public Input

No one signed up to speak during at this meeting.

Item 3: Park upkeep update—Sonja Lellamand

Sonja presented the APB with an update on the work that was performed in the park from March to December 2010. She also discussed work that will be needed for 2011 for the improvement and maintenance of both city parks.

Sonja proposed several options for adding additional trees as well as moving others from being in the path of power lines. Approximately 37 trees and stumps also need to be removed from the pocket park. She also pointed out that the trees and shrubbery will be more costly in November/December as she wanted the APB to be aware of this pattern in cost changes that occur annually. There is also a need for a new maintenance vehicle to help transport the mulch.

Sonja reported that there has been some trouble with children and teens moving stones in the rain garden, but she also informed the APB that there have been many positive comments from residents regarding the park.

Rick Hess reported that some of the potential costs may not be too challenging and will have more information as to how to accomplish these items at the next APB meeting.

Item 4a: Fourth of July Planning—Rick Hess

A.M. Pyrotechnics has been hired to do conduct the fireworks show. There may be a significant increase in attendance at this year's event due to the news that James River Assembly has decided to not present the "I Love America" fireworks display this year. Later this summer, the fence that sits between city hall and the fire department will likely be moved or dismantled, which will create more space to help accommodate a larger crowd for future events.

The APB discussed the critical need for more parking, shuttles, portable restroom facilities, and trash barrels. The APB will need to determine the costs for portable restrooms and other items that will be needed. There will also be a need for many volunteers. It appears that the fire department may be able to provide some volunteers. Security will also be needed for this event.

Beau Buffington reminded the park board that it is very important to reserve inflatables very early. Beau will work on this and bring some information to the next APB meeting.

Concessions will need to be secured and power/set up needs will need to be determined. Robert Groves kindly volunteered to take on this responsibility.

It was also suggested that the APB provide flyers or posters which will acknowledge event sponsors and will also help to promote activities in the Battlefield area such as park dedications and the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield events.

Item 4b: Frisbees—Bob Ranney

Bob presented an estimate to the park for the possibility of purchasing 1,000 Frisbees for only \$650.00. The frisbees would be given away at the 4th of July event and would be imprinted with information and/or the logo for the park board. A motion was made by Mike McWilliams to approve this expense. The motion was seconded by Marc Cerce roll call vote was taken with Beau Buffington aye, Marc Cerce aye, Mike McWilliams aye, and Robert Ranney aye.

Item 4c: Theme Park Tickets—Bob Ranney

Bob did not have any new information to present on this item as of yet.

Item 4d: Native Tree Plans & Flyer—Bob Ranney, Marc Cerce

The APB discussed progress that has been made in the planning for the Native Tree Giveaway which will be held from 9:00 AM to Noon on Saturday April 16 at city hall. Bob Ranney reported that 6 master naturalists will be on hand, and that the trees will be shipped in on Friday April 15. The APB reviewed a flyer that had just been mailed out with the city newsletter to promote this event.

Item 4e: Dedication and Naming of the Pocket Park—Rick Hess/Marc Cerce

The APB discussed the possibility of naming the city parks. A motion was made by Beau Buffington that the APB recommend to the Board of Alderman that the pocket park be renamed the “U.S. Grant V Park” in honor of the last surviving great-grandson of Ulysses S. Grant. U.S. Grant V was a resident of Battlefield and recently passed away. The motion also included the recommendation to rename the city park as the “General Nathaniel Lyon Park” in honor of the Union General who was fatally wounded in the Battle of Wilson’s Creek. The motion was seconded by Mike McWilliams. A roll call vote was taken with Beau Buffington aye, Marc Cerce aye, Mike McWilliams aye, and Robert Ranney aye.

Item 4f: Farmers Market—Bob Ranney

Bob reported that nothing has developed at this point. It appears that this may not be feasible in the near future.

Item 4g: Cherokee Trail—Bob Ranney

Bob has invited some guests to come to a meeting to discuss this. It seems like there is quite a bit of support for this idea. There is a goal to pave the trail area and progress is being made on this. There are also plans to have Ron Cooper (his walking journey along the Cherokee Trail began in Tennessee) and other walkers come through this area as they walk the entire trail. Art exhibits are being prepared for this event as well.

Item 4h: Tennis Courts—Bob Ranney

The courts are getting frayed around the edges, and Bob suggested having the tennis courts repaired and adding a back boards well. The backboard has multiple potential uses. This will be discussed further in a future meeting.

Item 5: Discuss and vote on volunteer applicant for Park Board

Robert Groves was introduced as a volunteer applicant for the Advisory Park Board. A motion was made by Marc Cerce to forward the name of Robert Groves to the Board of Aldermen for approval. The motion was seconded by Beau Buffington. A roll call vote was taken with Beau Buffington aye, Marc Cerce aye, Mike McWilliams aye, and Robert Ranney aye.

Item 6: Suggestions for the next meeting

July 4th event details and planning

Designs for the Frisbees

Booth at Wilson's Creek Battlefield

The next APB meeting will be held on Tuesday April 12, 2011.

Item 6: Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike McWilliams to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Ranney. A roll call vote was taken with Beau Buffington aye, Marc Cerce aye, Mike McWilliams aye, and Robert Ranney aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

_____ Robert Ranney, Chairman

_____ Date

ATTEST:

_____ Marc Cerce, Secretary

_____ Date